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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/419,611	10/18/1999	HIROSHI IZUI	0010-1045-0	1525
22850	7590	08/25/2004	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			FRONDA, CHRISTIAN L	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1652		
DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/419,611	IZUI ET AL.	
	Examiner Christian L Fronda	Art Unit 1652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 June 2004.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,2 and 6-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1, 2, and 6-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 18 October 1999 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 2, and 6-27 are under consideration in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st Paragraph

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1, 2, 6-10, 16, 18, and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Applicants' arguments filed June 9, 2004, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants' position is that the inventors had possession of the full scope of the invention at the time of filing and that the application satisfies the written description requirement. Applicants provide the Eikmanns et al. reference which teaches the nucleotide sequence of the *gltA* gene encoding citrate synthase from *Corynebacterium glutamicum*. The Examiner respectfully disagrees for reasons of record as supplemented below.

The claims are genus claims that are directed toward any gene of any nucleotide sequence encoding any citrate synthase of any amino acid sequence obtained from any coryneform bacterium.

The claims encompass a highly variant genus which include many genes with widely differing structural, chemical, and physical characteristics, and the genus is highly variable because a significant number of structural differences between genus members is permitted. Furthermore, the genes encompassed by the genus claims include regulatory elements and untranslated regions which are essential to the function of the genes.

However, the specification does not provide a written description of representative genes as encompassed by the claims other than a polynucleotide isolated from *Brevibacterium lactofermentum* encoding a citrate synthase which is obtained by PCR amplification of chromosomal DNA using primers of SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 2. Neither the

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specification nor the general knowledge of those skilled in the art including the Eikmanns et al. reference provide evidence of any partial structure which would be expected to be common to all the members of the claimed genus. Furthermore, The specification does not provide a written description of the specific nucleotide sequences of the genes and their regulatory elements and untranslated regions which are known in the art to be empirically determined.

Applicants have failed to sufficiently describe the claimed invention, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms that a skilled artisan would recognize Applicants were in possession of the claimed invention. Claims 2, 6-10, 16, 18, 20-23 which depend from claim 1 are also rejected because they do not correct the defect of claim 1.

Amending the claims to recite the specific nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:) of the polynucleotide isolated from *Brevibacterium lactofermentum* encoding a citrate synthase may overcome this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 11-15, 17, 19, and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 11, the phrase "amplifying the gene with oligonucleotide primers comprising SEQ ID NOs:1 and 2" renders the claim vague and indefinite because the metes and bounds of the phrase are not clear. Claims 12-15 and 24-27 which depend from claim 11 are also rejected because they do not correct the defect of claim 11.

In claims 15 and 17, the phrase "oligonucleotide primers comprise SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 2" renders the claim vague and indefinite because the metes and bounds of the phrase are not clear. Claim 19 which depends from claim 17 are also rejected because it does not correct the defect of claim 17.

Amending the claims to recite that the citrate synthase is obtainable by PCR amplification of chromosomal DNA using primers of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO: 2 may overcome the rejection.

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Conclusion

6. No claim is allowed.

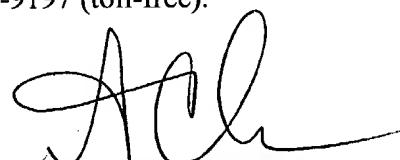
7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christian L Fronda whose telephone number is (571)272-0929. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday between 9:00AM - 5:00PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapura N Achutamurthy can be reached on (571)272-0928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CLF



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